

March 21, 1975

Mr. Charles C. Renshaw, Jr.
Editor
Prism Magazine
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Mr. Renshaw,

I was most gratified to receive your invitation to contribute to Prism on the subject of opportunities and risks in research in DNA recombination. I am already well acquainted with the magazine and believe it would afford an excellent opportunity to bring an informative discussion of these problems very appropriately to a larger audience.

However, I do not know if I am able to furnish you with the dramatic polemic that you may be interested in. I have no interest in continuing a controversy with Dr. Hardin and you may wish to withdraw your invitation after seeing what I would intend to offer. I am enclosing a copy of the letter to the New York Times that attempts to correct some of the exaggerations and misunderstanding about my position that were published in the article that you had undoubtedly seen. The article that appeared in Science, March 14th 1975, is a rather better reflection and more accurate record of my statement at the conference.

In addition, I am enclosing an outline and a sketch of some of the text along the lines of the draft that I would submit to you for a Prism article. I hasten to say that much of this was dictated ad lib and that I realize that my style in such writing tends to be rather Germanic. I think I can assure you that I can straighten out a good deal of that having had quite a few years of experience in writing a newspaper column on somewhat similar subjects. I send it to you not as a stylistic example but to give you some idea of the range of content of material that I would like to cover, and something of the perspective from which I would do so.

If this is agreeable to you as an alternative to what you had requested, I will be delighted to polish up this writing and I am sure I can send it to you in good time for your deadline.

I think I can get most of the main points across in the 2,500 word limit although this may prove to be somewhat confining and something like 3,000 or 3,500 might be more appropriate. Please let me know your pleasure in that regard or rather what latitude might be available.

3/21/75

I would also strongly suggest that there be a bit of simple artwork in connection with illustrating the basic procedures for DNA insertion. I am enclosing a copy of something that also appeared in Science magazine that gives the general gist of what I am talking about although I would want to sketch in some alterations. If, as I suspect will be the case, you are interested in this, please let me know the most convenient procedure (from my standpoint!) for submitting this material.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr
Enclosure